

VERTICALLY ADJUSTABLE RACK MOUNTED DISPLAY ASSEMBLY

Inventor: Daniel G. Lee
2401 Forest Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704

Randolph D. Gray
16721 Chamonix Terrace
Round Rock, Texas 78681

Eric C. Wobig
11629 Sweet Basil Court
Austin, Texas 78726

Assignee: DELL PRODUCTS L.P.
One Dell Way
Round Rock, Texas 78682-2244

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Attorney's Docket: 016295.1529
(DC-05799)

VERTICALLY ADJUSTABLE RACK MOUNTED DISPLAY ASSEMBLY

RELATED APPLICATION

This application is related to co-pending
application serial no. _____ entitled "*Rack
Mounted Keyboard and Display Assembly*" filed January 30,
5 2004.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates in general to
electronic systems and more particularly to a vertically
10 adjustable rack mounted display assembly and method of
use thereof.

BACKGROUND

As the value and use of information continues to increase, individuals and businesses seek additional ways to process and store information. One option available to users is information handling systems. An information handling system generally processes, compiles, stores, and/or communicates information or data for business, personal, or other purposes thereby allowing users to take advantage of the value of the information. Because technology and information handling needs and requirements vary between different users or applications, information handling systems may also vary regarding what information is handled, how the information is handled, how much information is processed, stored, or communicated, and how quickly and efficiently the information may be processed, stored, or communicated. The variations in information handling systems allow for information handling systems to be general or configured for a specific user or specific use such as financial transaction processing, airline reservations, enterprise data storage, or global communications. In addition, information handling systems may include a variety of hardware and software components that may be configured to process, store, and communicate information and may include one or more computer systems, data storage systems, and networking systems.

In many environments information handling systems are stored in racks. For instance, in data center environments racks, including racks compliant with

standard EIA-310, are used to house multiple servers and other information handling system components. Racks are typically divided into a multiple vertical sections, also referred to as "U's". Components are then typically
5 designed to fit within a vertical envelope corresponding to a number of U's. For instance, a 2U server is designed to fit within an 2U vertical space. In order to allow a user to interact with the rack mounted information handling system many information handling
10 systems provide a keyboard-display component mounted within the rack.

Some current keyboard-displays components (which may also be referred to as a keyboard-display assembly or a Keyboard Monitor Mouse (KMM)), include a display stored in
15 a horizontal position, in a common horizontal plane with the keyboard and positioned behind the keyboard. Accordingly, a user must fully extend the keyboard-display component from the rack and then reach behind the display to pull the display up to a viewing position.
20 This can be cumbersome work for shorter users who have a limited reach. Also the monitor viewing angle may be limited by the vertical position of the keyboard-display component within the rack.

In existing keyboard-display components the display
25 typically includes a screen such as an LCD screen. When the unit is stored within a storage position behind the keybaord, the LCD screen is typically facing upward. The upward facing LCD is then at risk of being damaged by components or other objects falling onto the LCD screen.

In some instances, depending upon the vertical placement of the keyboard-display within the rack the viewing angle of the display for users of different heights is not optimal and the distance between the keyboard and the display is often not optimized from a usability and viewability standpoint.

Other available keyboard-display devices incorporate a so-called "clam shell" design with the display component folded over the keyboard during storage. One disadvantage of this design is that it effectively doubles the vertical rack space required for storage of the clam shell style keyboard-display component.

SUMMARY

Therefore, a need has arisen for a keyboard-display component that is easily usable and visible to users of different heights.

5 In accordance with teachings of the present disclosure a system and method are described for providing a keyboard-display assembly that overcomes the problems associated with previous keyboard-display assemblies. The present disclosure provides a display
10 assembly including a tray that is moveably mounted within a rack. The display assembly includes a first display support arm and second display support arm. The display assembly is moveable between a storage position and a viewing position where, in the storage position, the
15 display is in a generally horizontal position with the screen face of the display facing downward and positioned forward of the keyboard within the tray. In the viewing position, the display assembly rotated into a generally vertical position. In the vertical position, the display
20 is vertically adjustable and may be moved with respect to the support arms. Rotation support brackets are secured to the tray and to slots formed in each support arm. The top end of the rotation support brackets slide along the slots as the display assembly is moved from the viewing
25 position to the storage position, thereby contacting pushing the display to an appropriate position with respect to the support arms to be placed in the storage position.

 In one aspect, the an information handling system
30 comprising is disclosed that includes a rack and a tray

slidably mounted within the rack and movable between a retracted position and an extended position. The tray has a keyboard portion for installing a keyboard. A display assembly is mounted to the tray and includes a first support arm, a second support arm, a display, a first rotation support bracket and a second rotation support bracket. The first support arm is pivotally connected to the tray and has a first longitudinal slot. The second support arm is pivotally connected to the tray and has a second longitudinal slot. The display is slidably attached to the first support arm and the second support arm. The first rotation support bracket is pivotally connected at a first end to the tray and slidably connected at a second end to the first slot. Additionally, the second rotation support bracket is pivotally connected at its first end to the tray and slidably connected at its second end to the second slot.

In another aspect, a keyboard-display assembly for use within a rack system is disclosed. The keyboard-display assembly includes a tray sized for installation within a rack system that also has a portion for installing a keyboard. A display assembly is mounted to the tray and includes a first support arm, a second support arm, a display, a first rotation support bracket and a second rotation support bracket. The first support arm is pivotally connected to the tray and has a first longitudinal slot. The second support arm is pivotally connected to the tray and has a second longitudinal slot. The display is slidably attached to the first support arm and the second support arm. The first rotation support

bracket is pivotally connected at a first end to the tray
and slidably connected at a second end to the first slot.
Additionally, the second rotation support bracket is
pivotally connected at its first end to the tray and
5 slidably connected at its second end to the second slot.

In yet another aspect a method for providing a
keyboard-display apparatus in a rack system is disclosed.
The method includes providing a display assembly and
pivotally mounting the display assembly to a tray. The
10 method also provides for pivotally mounting a first end
of a first rotation support bracket to the tray and
slidably mounting a second end of the first rotation
support bracket to the first slot of a support arm. Then
selectively positioning the display assembly in a storage
15 position where the display is positioned forward of a
keyboard installed within the tray, the display in a
generally horizontal position and a screen-face of the
display having a downward facing orientation. The method
also includes selectively rotating the display assembly
20 to a generally vertical viewing position.

The present disclosure includes a number of
important technical advantages. One technical advantage
is including a display assembly incorporating one or more
rotational support brackets. The rotational support
25 brackets provide additional support to support arms and
urge the display into an appropriate position relative to
the support bracket to by rotated from a viewing position
into a storage position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the present
embodiments and advantages thereof may be acquired by
referring to the following description taken in
5 conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like
reference numbers indicate like features, and wherein:

FIGURE 1 shows a keyboard-display assembly installed
within a rack system and shown in a generally vertical
viewing position;

10 FIGURE 2 shows a keyboard-display assembly with a
vertically adjustable display component;

FIGURE 3 shows a display assembly rotated between a
viewing position and a storage position according to
teachings of the present disclosure;

15 FIGURE 4 shows a keyboard-display assembly extending
from a rack with the display assembly in a generally
horizontal storage position; and

FIGURE 5 shows a rear portion of a display with the
back panel removed, showing a gear assembly to facilitate
20 vertical adjustment of the display.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Preferred embodiments and their advantages are best understood by reference to FIGURES 1 through 5, wherein like numbers are used to indicate like and corresponding parts.

For purposes of this disclosure, an information handling system may include any instrumentality or aggregate of instrumentalities operable to compute, classify, process, transmit, receive, retrieve, originate, switch, store, display, manifest, detect, record, reproduce, handle, or utilize any form of information, intelligence, or data for business, scientific, control, or other purposes. For example, an information handling system may be a personal computer, a network storage device, or any other suitable device and may vary in size, shape, performance, functionality, and price. The information handling system may include random access memory (RAM), one or more processing resources such as a central processing unit (CPU) or hardware or software control logic, ROM, and/or other types of nonvolatile memory. Additional components of the information handling system may include one or more disk drives, one or more network ports for communicating with external devices as well as various input and output (I/O) devices, such as a keyboard, a mouse, and a video display. The information handling system may also include one or more buses operable to transmit communications between the various hardware components.

Now referring to Figure 1, information handling system 10 includes a rack 12 for storing information

handling system components such as component 60 and keyboard-display assembly 13. Keyboard-display assembly 13 includes tray 16, keyboard 20, palmrest 22, display 14, first support arm 26 and second support arm 28.

5 In the present embodiment, rack 12 is preferably compliant with EIA-310 or another suitable standard for electronic or computer equipment racks. Component 60 and tray 16 are preferably installed within rack 12 using slide assemblies such as slide assemblies 38. In the
10 present embodiment, each slide assembly includes an inner slide, an intermediate slide, and an outer (or stationary) slide where the inner slide and intermediate slide may telescope outward from the outer slide. Keyboard-display 13 (via tray 16) is preferably attached
15 to the inner slide, which allows tray 16 to extend forward into an extended position 40, as shown, and a retracted position in the direction of arrow 42.

 In the present embodiment, tray 16 is attached to slide assembly 38. Tray 16 includes a keyboard portion
20 18 formed to allow a keyboard to be installed thereon. Keyboard 16 and palmrest 22 are both disposed on tray 22, with keyboard 16 being disposed within keyboard portion 18 and palmrest disposed forward of keyboard 20. Although not expressly shown, the cabling associated with
25 keyboard 16 (as well as cabling associated with display 14) are preferably contained in a cable management assembly as are known to those of skill in the art, that extends and retracts as keyboard-display assembly 13 moves forward into extended position 40 or is retracted
30 in the direction of arrow 42 with rack 12.

In alternate embodiments, tray 16 and keyboard 20 may be integrated into a single component. Also, in the present embodiment keyboard 20 includes an integrated pointing device (here, a roller ball type device). In
5 alternate embodiments, a separate pointing device component may be installed within tray 16. In other alternate embodiments, palmrest 22 may not be included or may be integrated into tray 16 or keyboard 20.

In the present embodiment the area directly behind
10 the keyboard serves three purposes. It contains and shrouds the pivots that control the rotation of display assembly 15. It also contains and shrouds the power transformer that converts AC power to DC power for display 14. Last of all, it serves as a cable routing
15 and strain relief area for the power cables, keyboard cables, mouse cables, and video cables associated with keyboard-display assembly 13.

Display assembly 15 includes display 14 supported by first support arm 26 and second support arm 28. In the
20 present embodiment (and as further described below) display 14 is movable with respect to first support arm 26 and second support arm 28. Accordingly, as display assembly 15 is in its second, generally vertical viewing position (as shown), display 14 may be adjusted
25 vertically by slidably traversing up or down support arms 26 and 28. In the present preferred embodiment, display 14 has an adjustment range of approximately 4.5 inches with respect to support arms 26 and 28. However, in
30 alternate embodiments, display 14 may be fixed with respect support arms 26 and 28 or may have a greater or

lesser adjustment range with respect to support arms 26 and 28.

Display assembly 15 is pivotally mounted to tray 16 such the display assembly may move between a first, 5 generally horizontal storage position (as shown in FIGURE 3) and a generally vertical viewing position as shown in FIGURE 1. Display 14 further includes screen face 24 and rear face 25. In the second, viewing position, screen face 24 is viewable to a user standing in front of 10 keyboard-display assembly 13. In the first, generally horizontal storage position, display 14 is disposed in generally the same vertical envelope as tray 16 and keyboard 20 with screen face 24 facing downward and rear face 25 facing upward. In this manner, screen face 24 15 will be protected from objects falling from above, such as components being installed in or removed from rack 12. Additionally, by positioning display 14 forward of keyboard 20, display 14 is advantageously accessible to a user who is pulling keyboard-display assembly 13 from 20 rack and moving 14 to a viewing position.

In the present embodiment, display 14 includes handle 52 integrated into the body of display 14 to facilitate moving keyboard-display assembly between extended position 40 (as shown) and retracted position 25 (not expressly shown) and to rotate display assembly 15 between its generally horizontal storage position (as shown in FIGURES 3 and 4) and its generally vertical viewing position (as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2). In the present embodiment, display assembly 15 may rotate up 30 from the generally horizontal storage position up to 102

degrees. Accordingly, the generally vertical viewing positioning of display assembly 15 encompasses any position of display assembly in which display 14 may be operatively viewed by a user standing in front of
5 keyboard-display assembly 13.

Also in the present embodiment, first support arm 26 and second support arm 28 are each additionally supported by first rotation support bracket 34 and second rotation support bracket 36. In the present embodiment, a first
10 end of support arms 26 and 28 are pivotally attached to tray 16 in a position behind keyboard portion 18. Rotation support brackets 34 and 38 are pivotally secured to tray 16 about a first end 44 (note that the first end of first rotation support bracket 34 is not expressly
15 shown) in a position forward of each respective support arm 26 and 28. First support arm 26 has a first longitudinal slot 30 formed in the lower portion thereof. Second support arm 28 has a corresponding second longitudinal slot 32 formed in the lower portion thereof.

20 The operation of first rotation support bracket 34 and second rotation support bracket correspond and the description of the operation of second rotation support bracket 36 applies in a corresponding manner to the operation of first rotation support bracket 34 (as well
25 as second end 44 of first rotation support bracket 34). Second rotation support bracket 36 is pivotally connected at a first end 48 to tray 16 and slidably connected at its second end 46 to slot 33. Accordingly, as display assembly 15 rotates, the position of second end 46 of

second rotation support bracket 36 will travel along the length of slot 32.

As display assembly 15 is rotated to the maximum angle of rotation of the viewing position (as shown)
5 second end 46 rests at the base of slot 32 and helps prevent keyboard-display assembly 15 from extending beyond the maximum angle of rotation of the viewing position. As display assembly 15 is rotated into the generally horizontal storage position, second end 46 will
10 travel upwards along slot 32. In the event that display has been lowered with respect to support arms 26 and 28 (as shown in FIGURE 2), as display assembly 15 is rotated forward, the second end 46 of second rotation support bracket 36 contacts a bottom portion 51 of display 14.
15 As display assembly 15 is further rotated, second end 46 of second rotation support bracket 36 pushes display 14 to extend to the maximum extension of second rotation support bracket 36 with respect to second slot 32. Accordingly, second rotation support bracket 28 will
20 position display 14 to allow it to rotate into the generally horizontal storage position (as shown in FIGURES 3 and 4) without interfering with or otherwise contacting tray 16, keyboard 20, or palmrest 22.

Now referring to FIGURE 2, keyboard-display assembly
25 13, movable from a first vertical position 54 to a second vertical position 56, is shown. As used herein, the terms "first vertical position" and "second vertical position" refer not only to the generally vertical adjustment of display 14 when display-assembly is in a
30 generally vertical viewing position (as shown) but

applies to any movement of display 14 with respect to support arms 26 and 28. Accordingly, movement of display 14 between first vertical position 54 and second vertical position 56 may take place as display assembly 15 is
5 partially rotated toward the generally horizontal storage position.

Now referring to FIGURE 3, display assembly 15 rotated between the viewing position and the storage position is shown. As described above, as display
10 assembly 15 rotates toward the storage position, second end 46 of rotation support bracket 36 travels upward within slot 32. In the event that display 14 was lowered with respect to support arms 26 and 28, second end 46 will contact bottom portion 51 of monitor 14. As display
15 assembly continues to rotate toward the storage position, second end 46 acts to push display 14 forward in such that display 14 may advance to the storage position without contacting keyboard 20, palm rest 22, or tray 16.

Now referring to FIGURE 4, a depiction of display
20 assembly 15 is shown in a storage position 58. As shown, display assembly is rotated into a generally horizontal storage position 58, forward of keyboard 20, tray 16, and palmrest 22. As shown, display assembly 15 as well as tray 16, keyboard 20, and palmrest 22 are all in a common
25 vertical envelope. In the present embodiment, keyboard-display assembly may preferably be installed within rack 12 in a 1U envelope. Also shown, rear face 25 is facing in an upward orientation (and screen face 24 is facing in a downward orientation) thereby protecting screen face 24
30 from falling objects.

Now referring to FIGURE 5, a depiction of keyboard-display assembly 15 with portions of rear face 25 removed is shown. As shown, first support arm 26 and second support arm 28 extend into the body of display 14.

5 Display 14 includes gear assembly 73 that interfaces with support arms 26 and 28 to allow display 14 to move with respect to support arms 26 and 28.

As shown, first support arm 26 also includes upper portion 71 that includes first gear rack 70 at its lower
10 end and first detent 76, second detent 78, and third detent 80 at its upper end. Gear rack 70 interfaces with first gear 72 of gearing assembly 73. Detents 76, 78, and 80 may preferably interface with detent assembly to secure display 14 with respect to first support arm 26.
15 It should be noted that in the present embodiment, second support arm 28 interfaces with second gear 76 in a corresponding fashion and includes corresponding detents that interface with a similarly corresponding detent assembly (not expressly shown). In alternate
20 embodiments, only a single detent assembly and gear assembly may be use to selectively position display 14 with respect to support arm 26 or 28.

Gearing assembly 73 includes first gear 72 attached to a first end of rod 74 and second gear 76 attached to
25 the second end of rod 74. In the present embodiment, gears 72 and 76 are fixed with respect to rod 74, such that if gear 72 rotates, gear 74 will rotate an equal amount. Accordingly, both sides of display 14 will preferably traverse along the gear racks 70 (and its
30 corresponding gear rack-not expressly shown) of support

arms 26 and 28 in unison, thereby preventing indexing of display 14 as it moves with respect to support arms 26 and 28. Preferably, the friction between gears 72 and 76 and the gear racks 70 provides sufficient friction to
5 retain display 14 in a particular vertical position 54 or 56, or any point in between (as described above).

In the present embodiment, display 14 also includes a first detent assembly 81 (and a corresponding second detent assembly, not expressly shown) that may secure
10 display 14 with respect to first support arm 26 and second support arm 28. First detent assembly 81 includes fixed bracket 82, and leaf spring 84. Bracket 82 is fixed within display 14 and leaf spring 84 is fixed to bracket 82. Leaf spring 84 is further formed to rest
15 within detents 76, 78, or 80. Accordingly, as display 14 is moved with respect to first support arm 26, leaf spring 84 travels adjacent to upper portion 71 of first support arm 26. As the interface portion of leaf spring 84 aligns with detents 76, 78, 80, a user may stop the
20 movement of display 14 with respect to support arms 26 and 28 and allow the interface between leaf spring 84 and the detent in use to secure display 14 relative to support arms 26 and 28.

In the present embodiment, the pressure exerted by
25 leaf spring 84 against detents 76, 78, or 80 is operable to hold display 14 in place with respect to support arms 26 and 28, and will also be displaced with a small amount of force exerted by a user to adjust the position of display 14 relative to support arms 26 and 28. The
30 present embodiment includes three detents 76, 78, and 80.

In alternate embodiments more or fewer detents may be included.

Also shown in the present embodiment are display electronics housing 92 connected to cabling 91. As shown
5 cable 91 is a VGA cable and is fixed to the display housing with tabs 93. In particular, cable 91 is attached to form service loop 90 such that a sufficient length of cabling is disposed within the housing of display 14 to facilitate movement of display 14 with
10 respect to support arms 26 and 28. Additional cabling associated with display 14 (such as power cables or other appropriate cables) may also include a service loop.

In operation, a user may find keyboard-display assembly 15 stored in a rack system 12, with the display
15 assembly in a storage position. The user may access the keyboard-display assembly by pulling the keyboard-display assembly to extended position 40. In the present embodiment, the user may preferably accomplish this using handle 52. Next a user may move display assembly from
20 its generally horizontal storage position to a generally vertical viewing position. As described above, display assembly 15 may rotate up to 102 degrees from the generally horizontal storage position. The user preferably rotates display assembly to a desired angle.
25 In the present embodiment, the user may then adjust display 14 relative to support arms 26 and 28.

When a user is finished using keyboard-display 13, the user may rotate display assembly 15 forward to the storage position. In the present embodiment, if display
30 14 has been lowered with respect to support arms 26 and

28, rotation support brackets 34 and 36 act to push display 14 to extend along support arms 26 and 28 sufficiently to extend past tray 16, keyboard 20, and palm rest 22.

- 5 Although the disclosed embodiments have been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made to the embodiments without departing from their spirit and scope.